combined form by the tissues which prepare venous blood. This fact also leads to certain conclusions as to the manner in which the carbonic acid is combined in the blood and expelled by the corpuscles.

When the blood is completely deprived of gas, a portion of its disks is decomposed into a colourless stroma and a coloured fluid. The same phenomenon is observed, although in a less degree, when only the oxygen is removed from the blood, whether by pumping or by suffocation. On the other hand, the attempt to render the blood perfectly free from carbonic acid by the introduction of oxygen was unsuccessful. Even after the long-continued action of air containing oxygen, but free from carbonic acid, about 4 volumes per cent. of carbonic acid always remain, and these can only be got rid of after the removal of the oxygen. Blood so treated showed no changed corpuscles.—*Sitzungsber. der kais. Akad. der Wiss. in Wien*, 8 January, 1864, p. 3.

"*New Forms of Mollusks?*"

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

Gentlemen,—May I be permitted, as a constant reader of your excellent Magazine, to record my humble protest against the unscientific practice (now very much on the increase) of describing, in portentous detail, varieties of well-known species of shells as "New Forms of Mollusks?" I ought not, perhaps, to cavil at Dr. P. P. Carpenter giving the new name of *Callista pollicaris* to a shell which I had minutely examined and declared to be a variety of *Dione prora* (*Callista prora*, Carpenter), because it involves a question of opinion; but I may be allowed to object to his printing, as a statement of my views, a hasty conversational concurrence with an opinion to which, when I came to print my monograph, I refrained from giving publicity. What can be the object of describing as a new species a shell which the describer, in the same sentence, denotes as being probably not a new species? Dr. P. P. Carpenter brought me some shells, showing that he had named them *Callista puella*. I told him that they were simply varieties of *Dione pannosa* (*Callista pannosa*, Carpenter). But his name of *puella* was not then published: it appears in your last Number (p. 312), printed thus:—"*Callista* (*? pannosa*) *puella*." Dr. P. P. Carpenter gives the shell a new name while at the same time denoting his fear that it may be a variety of one named already; and he goes on to remark, with reference to some white specimens of it, "The colourless subtrigonal shells were regarded by Mr. Reeve as a separate species, but he did not allude to them in his monograph." The reason of my not alluding to them is obvious. Should even the soft parts of the shells under consideration ever come into Dr. P. P. Carpenter's hands, I venture to predict that he will find difficulty in showing them to be "New Forms of Mollusks." I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Sutton, Hounslow, April 7, 1863. Lovell Reeve.